

John Coffee to Andrew Jackson, July 9, 1831, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

BRIGADIER-GENERAL JOHN COFFEE TO JACKSON.

Cox's Creek Near Florence, July 9, 1831.

Private

Dear Genl. I am indebted to you for several letters since I wrote you, for which I offer you my thanks, for was it not for the information you kindly give me, I would be entirely ignorant of the passing events at Washington, for we cannot rely upon any thing scarcely which we see in the news papers. I see that my friend Eaton is acting himself, now that he is not shackled with office. this is what I expected of him, it is right, and just what every honest independant man, who will take the trouble to think for himself, will approve of. At suitable season, I expect he will go the whole hog round, but he ought not to press it too fast, times and circumstances will offer when all will come on by accident as it were, but he should always be prepared. Duff deserves it well, but it wont doo now, they are so much in the habit of crying out War, Pestilence, and famine, that they would turn their batteries against you, and although it has in reality, nothing to do with you, or you with the transaction, yet they would play it in that way, and many persons who dont understand the thing, and will not take the trouble to understand them, will fall into their wake, and believe, or pretend to believe, that you are concerned in the affair, which no doubt is not the fact. therefore perhaps better for E. to let Duff pass on for the present, and untill he feels more safe and secure, when a surprise will set harder on him than at present when he expects it, but there is a time coming when he deserves punishment from Eatons hands. I see that Mr. Ingham has followed in the footsteps of his great file leader, and

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cries, out, *War, bloodshed, death and raw head and bloody bones* —and calls on the people to witness. Mr. Ingham is now a private man, the people has no more to do with him, than with aney other person, yet they will use it in that way, and try to turn it against you if possible. therefore if possible to let things rest for the present, and until a more convenient season. . . .